such a set-up of their own, but as far as the National Renewal Fund set up by the Government of India is concerned, State Governments are free to join the National Renewal Fund. We will be writing to the State Governments inviting their cooperation.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : The reply of the hon. Minister does not give justice to the issue that has been raised. The hon. Minister in his reply has stated the purpose and objective of the Fund. As you know the papers submitted to the Tripartite Conference a few days ago and the document that we have got this morning categorically say that for restructuring of labour force arising out of the industrialisation scheme of the Government this Fund has been set up. As a result of this a big section of the labour force is to be thrown out of the public sector undertakings. This scheme which has been prepared will impose a burden of Rs. 6,000 crores on the nation for the so-called restructuring. Of course, it has not been stated there, but the Government should reply whether they have taken this measure at the instance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in order to get some loans from them. As a result of that they will destabilise the Indian industry and cause distress to the Indian work force. It will create a serious imbalance in the work force and in the production system. I would like to know whether it is true or not. If it is so, why is the Government pursuing this policy ? In pursuance of this policy why is the Government obliging the IMF by... (*Interruptions*) I am completing my question. The Government should reply as to what are the purposes behind further amending the BIFR Act.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : First of all, I would like to inform the Member that we do not take decisions at the instance of any external force. We take decisions which we feel are in the best interest of the country.

Secondly, the Member's contention is that NRF is not in the interest of the workers. His contention is not based on facts. In fact there is a need for technological modernisation of the industries. I am sure the hon. Member will agree with me that there are a number of units in the country which need technological upgradation and modernisation. In that event if there is any distress caused to the workers, it is the responsibility of the Government to protect their interests. That is why this NRF has been instituted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indian teams working in Antarctica

*44. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will be PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of teams presently working in Antarctica ;

(b) what are the details of the teams earlier sent ; and

(c) what have been their achievements and how much expenditure has been incurred on them, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) The eleventh Indian Expedition team along with the winter team members left behind by the tenth expedition team is, at present, working in Antarctica.

(b) The details of the earlier expedition teams indicating the number of scientists, logistics personnel and doctors for the summer

and winter components respectively are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 13)

(c) by virtue of the expeditions to Antarctica India has established a permanent station at Maitri (70° 45' 39.4"S, 11° 44' 48.6"E) and a supply-cum-summer base camp at Dakshin Gangotri (70° 05'S, 12° 00'E). As a result, India is a Consultative Party to the Antarctica Treaty, Member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and Member of the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

Valuable data and information has been collected under various disciplines of science *viz.* Earth Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences and Magnetosphere, Meteorology, Biosciences and Environmental Physiology. A complete Geological map of the Wolhthat region in Antarctica is now available. The results obtained from various expeditions are, at present, available in five volumes.

The total expenditure incurred so far on the eleven Antarctic expenditions is Rs. 82.85 crore approximately.

दूरदर्शन का दूसरा राष्ट्रीय चैनल

*45. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :
श्री बेकल "उत्साही" :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दूरदर्शन का दूसरा राष्ट्रीय चैनल आरंभ किये जाने का प्रस्ताव है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी अनुमानित लागत क्या है; और

(ग) क्या इसके लिए अनिवासी भारतीयों सहित गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र से धन प्राप्त किये जाने का प्रस्ताव है; यदि हां, तो कितना और किन शर्तों पर ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास) : (क) दूसरे राष्ट्रीय चैनल (एन-2) की स्थापना करने की स्कीम को आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव है।

(ख) प्रारंभिक अनुमानों के अनुसार स्कीम पर लगभग 2460 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आएगी।

(ग) फिलहाल ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Central Public Sector Pharmaceutical Units in West Bengal

*46. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have received any letter from the Chief Minister of West Bengal concerning three Central Public Sector Pharmaceutical Units of the State ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has suggested that attempt should first be made to devise, fund and impleme..t appropriate rehabilitation strategies before other alternatives are pursued in respect of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Bengal Immunity Limited and Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., the three Calcutta based public sector drug companies. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has been informed by the Prime